

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 SP-02 /028 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM:CEK

APPROVED BY NEA - MR STERNER

S/S -O:RGAMBLE

-----140107Z 118073 /62

O 132317Z MAY 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109436 TOSEC 040281

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR ATHERTON AND SOBER FROM NEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, (FAHD BIN ABDUL AZIZ) SA, US

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT AND THE JOINT COMMISSION

1. SAUDI EMBASSY CALLED MAY 13 ON BASIS OF LONG DISTANCE  
CALL FROM AMBASSADOR ALIREZA TO PUT FOLLOWING REQUEST: IF  
USG AGREES, SAG PROPOSES HOLDING JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
MEETING MAY 25 DURING CROWN PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT WITH THE  
TWO DELEGATIONS CHAIRED BY FAHD AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE.

2. ALIREZA IS RETURNING OVER WEEKEND AND TWINAM ASSURED  
SAUDI EMBASSY WE WOULD RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THIS  
REQUEST BUT REALISTICALLY EMBASSY SHOULD NOT EXPECT AN  
ANSWER BEFORE MONDAY OR TUESDAY. TWINAM ASKED EMBASSY TO  
LET ALIREZA KNOW THAT SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL IS SCHEDULED TO  
BE OUT OF COUNTRY DURING PERIOD OF FAHD VISIT AND THAT OUR  
UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT VICE PRESIDENT WOULD BE AWAY FROM  
WASHINGTON UNTIL MAY 25 WHEN HE IS PLANNING TO RETURN IN  
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ORDER TO ATTEND SAUDI RETURN DINNER.

3. WE RAISED LATEST SAUDI PROPOSAL INFORMALLY WITH NSC AT  
STAFF LEVEL. HOWEVER, VICE PRESIDENT DEPARTED WASHINGTON  
THIS EVENING BEFORE ANY DECISION WAS MADE CONCERNING HIS  
POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION, IN TERMS OF EITHER LATEST SAUDI RE-  
QUEST OR EARLIER MORE GENERAL ONE FOR VP SPONSORSHIP WITH

FAHD OF JOINT COMMISSION. VICE PRESIDENT IS NOT RETURNING TO WASHINGTON UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO MAY 25.

4. NSC ADVISES THAT ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN DECISION PRIOR TO FAHD VISIT IS TO PUT FORMAL PROPOSAL TO NSC THAT VICE PRESIDENT PARTICIPATE IN COMMISSION. INITIAL STAFF SOUNDINGS ON EARLIER SAUDI PROPOSAL AND FACT THAT MONDALE/BLUMENTHAL SCHEDULES VIRTUALLY RULE OUT HOLDING MEETING DURING FAHD VISIT SUGGEST AGAINST PURSUING THIS.

5. UNLESS YOU FEEL IMPLICATIONS FOR US-SAUDI RELATIONS DICTATE A DIFFERENT COURSE WE PROPOSE TO TURN OFF SAUDI REQUEST BY TELLING ALIREZA MAY 17 THAT WHILE NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL PRIOR COMMITMENTS OF US PRINCIPALS MAKE IT IMPRACTICAL IN ANY CASE TO HOLD JOINT COMMISSION MEETING DURING FAHD VISIT. SHOULD ALIREZA PRESS HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL OF VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION WE WOULD INFORMALLY POINT OUT CONSIDERATIONS, OF WHICH YOU ARE AWARE, WHICH WOULD MAKE VICE PRESIDENTIAL SPONSORSHIP A CONSIDERABLE DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL US PROCEDURES. SHOULD HE INDICATE SAUDIS MIGHT WISH TO HAVE A MINISTER OF LESSER RANK THAN FAHD ASSUME SPONSORSHIP OF COMMISSION WE WOULD INDICATE THIS WOULD GIVE USG NO PROBLEM. PLEASE ADVISE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** VICE PRESIDENT AND THE JOINT COMMISSION  
**TAGS:** OVIP, ECON, SA, US, USSAJC, (AZIZ, FAHD BIN ABDUL)  
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